

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 382 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY D. O'BRIEN, B. BOYLE, K. BOYLE, BROOKS, V. BROWN, CLYMER, D. COSTA, DENLINGER, DIGIROLAMO, EVERETT, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GEORGE, HARHAI, HARKINS, HENNESSEY, HESS, MARSHALL, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MOUL, MURT, PASHINSKI, QUINN, REICHLEY, ROCK, ROEBUCK, SCAVELLO, SONNEY, SWANGER AND YOUNGBLOOD, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, SEPTEMBER 14, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring and commending the life of United States Navy Captain
2 Christopher J. Ferguson, who commanded the final United
3 States space shuttle flight, July 8 to 21, 2011.

4 WHEREAS, The United States space shuttle program, under the
5 leadership of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
6 (NASA), began setting records with its first launch on April 12,
7 1981, and continued to set high marks of achievement and
8 endurance through 30 years of missions; and

9 WHEREAS, Starting with Columbia and continuing with
10 Challenger, Discovery, Atlantis and Endeavor, the space shuttle
11 has carried people into orbit repeatedly; launched, recovered
12 and repaired satellites; conducted cutting-edge research; and
13 built the largest structure in space, the International Space
14 Station; and

15 WHEREAS, The final space shuttle mission, STS-135, ended on
16 July 21, 2011, when the Atlantis rolled to a stop at its home

port, NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida; and

WHEREAS, Commanding this flight was United States Navy Captain Christopher J. Ferguson, 49, who was born and raised in the 169th legislative district of Pennsylvania; and

WHEREAS, A native Philadelphian, Capt. Ferguson attended St. Martha's Parish School and Archbishop Ryan High School before receiving a degree in mechanical engineering from Drexel University and a master's degree in aeronautical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School; and

WHEREAS, Capt. Ferguson was commissioned from the Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at the University of Pennsylvania, received his Navy Wings in 1986 and was ordered to the F-14 Tomcat training squadron in Virginia Beach, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, After a brief period of instruction, he joined the "Red Rippers" of VF-11, deploying to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Oceans aboard the USS Forrestal, and he attended the Navy Fighter Weapon School (TOPGUN) and was selected for the Naval Postgraduate/Test Pilot School program in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Capt. Ferguson was the first pilot to release several types of air-to-ground weapons from the Tomcat, flew several missions in the no-fly zone in Iraq and served as logistics officer for the Atlantic Fleet prior to his selection in the space program; and

WHEREAS, Capt. Ferguson has been an astronaut since 1998. He completed two years of training, followed by technical duties with the Spacecraft Systems Branch, piloted STS-115, commanded STS-126 and STS-135 and logged over 40 days in space; and

WHEREAS, For his service to our nation, Capt. Ferguson has

1 been awarded the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross,
2 Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Naval Strike/Flight Medal,
3 NASA Spaceflight Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (three), Navy
4 Achievement Medal and various other service awards and
5 citations; and

6 WHEREAS, Capt. Ferguson is married to the former Sandra
7 Cabot, whose mother, Trudy, lives in Plymouth Valley, and is the
8 son of Mary Ann Pietras, who lives with her husband, Norman
9 Pietras, in Langhorne; he and his wife are the parents of three
10 children; and

11 WHEREAS, Capt. Ferguson is a distinguished member of our
12 space program and deserves the recognition and gratitude of this
13 Commonwealth; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives honor and commend
15 the life of United States Navy Captain Christopher J. Ferguson,
16 who commanded the final United States space shuttle flight, July
17 8 to 21, 2011.